

SPEECH TO CITY COUNCIL

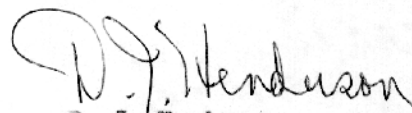
July 19, 1983

We do not come here with any hope of influencing the decision of the Council. It is now evident that you intend to approve this ordinance regardless of any protest by citizens. An American statesman has said "For our democracy to flourish, it must have criticism. For our government to function, it must have dissent."

And so, when responsible officials behave irresponsibly, it is the duty of citizens to dissent, without any thought that their dissent may or may not produce a sense of responsibility in these officials, or affect their decisions.

Newark may now have the most expensive top level government of any city of its size. Top level government includes the mayor, two deputy mayors, the nine Councilman, with all the aides, staff and perquisites that go with each of these twelve positions. Newark may also have the smallest tax base of any city of its size. To disregard this condition and propose this ordinance is certainly irresponsible behavior, and the manner in which it has been present^{ed} is, at best, devious, not to say reprehensible.

Newark citizens are losing confidence in the administrative branch of their government. By passage of this ordinance, you will move to destroy their respect for the legislative branch and their confidence in this Council.


D. J. Henderson